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CONTENTS.

PAGE.

To Friendship. 1

Lines written during a Storm 3

On recovering from a tedious Illness, whilst confined by Weakness 5

An Impromptu in Sickness 9

Matthew—c. 11.—v. 23. 11

Paraphrase on the 46th Psalm..... 15

Paraphrase on the first part of the 33d Psalm 19

A Hymn..... 22

A Morning Hymn..... 26

An Evening Hymn 30

A Hymn..... 32

Resignation in Sickness 34

Thoughts whilst examining Flowers..... 36

Written in Autumn, after a dangerous Illness 40

On a Friend remarking I constantly encourage Hope..... 44

Reflections while copying a Miniature of Mary Queen of Scots. 46

CONTENTS.

PAGE.

Orlando and Emily 50

Elegiac Stanzas 58

On a Dew Drop 61

Hay-making 63

To Tranquillity 65

Effusion 67

Clifton 70

To my Nephew Joseph, on his Birth-day, August 11th, 1811 .. 95

To my Sister, on her Birth-day, March 10th, 1812 102

To Emma, on her requesting my opinion of what constitutes a Beautiful Face 106

To my Nephew Francis, on his entering St. Paul's School 108

To my Sister Mary 113

To my Nephews and Nieces 115

TO FRIENDSHIP.

FRIENDSHIP! thou soother of the troubled mind,
Thou brilliant gem to brighten dark Despair,
By thy sweet influence Pleasure is refined,
And thou canst soften, by dividing, care.

When from the pallid cheek the roses fly,
When Health and Cheerfulness no longer bloom,
When Sorrow steals the lustre from the eye,
And sparkling Wit refuses to illume;

When fickle Fortune shews her varying power,
And promised gifts, with smiles, will not extend,
Some bliss enlivens still the dreary hour,
If there remain the solace of a Friend;
Such as, through darkened scenes of chilling woes,
With truth sincere, affords each grief repose.

LINES,

WRITTEN DURING A STORM.

THE Rain and the Tempest are beating around,
Nor is aught to be heard but harsh horror's dread
sound;
The elements' contest, and all this wild strife,
Conveys to my mind a true picture of life.

It tells me, that man, sadly weak and forlorn,
Must submit to the troubles to which he was born,
Must expect 'mid his sunshine that storms will
arise,
And must yield to the tempest that reigns in the
skies.

It shews that the prospect his fancy may form,
May be darken'd too soon by the pitiless storm ;
That pleasures and joys may endure but a day,
And his happiness glide like a vision away.

The sunshine is transient his prospect that cheers,
'Tis the gleam of a moment and soon disappears ;
The vapours ascend, and the clouds quickly form,
And lo ! the fair landscape is lost in the storm.

Let us rise then above this tempestuous earth,
And soar to the region where spirit has birth ;
There nor vapour, nor tempest, nor gloom will
appear,
Nor pleasure be damped by keen misery's tear.

ON RECOVERING FROM A TEDIOUS ILLNESS,

WHILST CONFINED BY WEAKNESS.

NO longer shall sorrow lament,
  Nor Ingratitude inwardly lurk;
I now am resigned and content
  With my pencil, my book, and my work.

My book, which can solace and cheer,
  Still amusement with knowledge will blend;
My pencil, when fancy is near,
  Is ever a much-valued friend.

Work too will afford to the mind
A variety certain to please;
With taste and the useful combined,
Are delight, satisfaction, and ease.

Secluded from bustle and strife,
From Ambition, and Envy, and Care,
May Religion preside o'er my life,
And guard me from gloomy Despair.

With Friendship the balm of the heart,
And a sister's affectionate care.
Life still much delight may impart,
And the spring my weak health may repair.

In the summer new blossoms may cheer,
  And the delicate flow'rets expand,
Supported, they then will appear,
  To reward the kind fostering hand.

And when with bright beauties they shine,
  What pleasing sensations they give,
That they do not from negligence pine,
  But by care and attention they live.

So I, through the winter of grief,
  Of affliction, and sickness, and pain,
Have been nursed and received such relief,
  That life's joys seem yet smiling again.

If health her best blessing extends
May the warm sun of gratitude rise,
Inspire me to value the friends
Whose kindness such comfort supplies.

AN IMPROMPTU,

IN SICKNESS.

LITTLE pleasing soft attentions,
Such as Friendship can impart;
Wants the sufferer never mentions,
When supplied will touch the heart.

Gentle minds with feeling bending,
O'er the restless couch of pain;
Pity's hand still kindly tending,
Bid the soul it's peace retain.

Anxious, sweet anticipation

Sympathy, in sighs exprest;

Tender, kind commisseration—

How they soothe the mind to rest.

MATTHEW—C. xi.—V. 28.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

THO' Life may prove a sad and dreary Scene,
Where Joys are damped and Miseries intervene,
What transport gleams, what unalloyed delight,
Pure are it's hopes,—such as no ills can blight,
Such as in deepest Grief can still appear,
Shine through the gloom, a brilliant light, to cheer;

Resplendent rays to animate the Heart,
Disperse dark fear, and brightest hope impart—

When on the bed of pain the sufferer lies
And no kind hand it's ready aid supplies;
When the sick soul oppress'd by mental grief
Pines in deep sorrow, hopeless of relief;
When the worn traveller sinks beneath the load
Which still he bears along life's rugged road,
Weary and faint pursues his thorny way,
Seeks thro' the gloom some friendly glimmering ray,
While darkness gathers and thick clouds appear,
And not a taper gleams his path to cheer—

When Sorrow's tears bedew her patient cheek
Who grieves in secret but forbears to speak,
Who patiently subdues the rising sigh,
By the assurance that her God is nigh,
Who meekly in Affliction's trying hour,
Reliance feels on his supporting power,
Trusts that he notes the sufferer's flowing tear,
Calms the sad soul and checks the rising fear,—
What soothing solace in this truth divine,
Dejected mourner, all thy fears resign,
A pitying eye can every sorrow see,
A gracious voice proclaims—"COME UNTO ME,"
"Amidst the deepest gloom, and weightiest woe,
"I will an animating ray bestow,

"Whate'er the troubles which invade thy breast,
"I will subdue thy griefs, and give thee rest,
"Will bid thy trials and thy sufferings cease,
"And lead to mansions of eternal peace."

A PARAPHRASE

ON THE FORTY-SIXTH PSALM.

RISE drooping Sufferer, banish every fear,
Thy refuge and support, thy God is near—
Tho' the foundations of the mountains shake,
Tho' earth shall tremble, and all nature quake,
Tho' swelling waters rush with troubled roar,
And billowy surges lash the peaceful shore,
Tho' lofty hills are hurled with boist'rous sweep
To the dark regions of the silent deep,

Yet a calm river, and a peaceful rill,
In gentle current cheers thee, ZION! still,
It's softest streams in soothing murmurs glide,
By holy Sanctuaries where saints reside,
Where meekness lifts to Heaven her tearful eye,
And feels her aid, a present Deity.

When War displays its falchion and its shield,
And hostile armies desolate the field—
When dreaded powers invade the peaceful soil,
And pity's voice is lost in discord's broil—
When the black raven hover's o'er the dart
Which vengeance points against a brother's heart--
Ambitious heroes with their glittering train,
Their march direct defying toil and pain,

Fell desolation all their steps pursue,

And houseless thousands the fierce warfare rue;

The weeping wife, the parent, sister, friend,

Whose ardent, trembling prayers, to heaven

ascend,

Their breaking hearts, the tidings rend in twain

That husband, brother, child, or friend is slain—

Still may each relative, and anxious friend,

Securely trust their God will yet attend—

For war shall cease at his Almighty word,

His fiat sheaths the dread avengeful sword,

He can avert the long impending doom,

And bid the olive branch of peace to bloom.

His power shall be to heathen nations shewn,
They must exalt his name, his goodness own;
Rest then my soul, bend to th' Almighty's will,
Subdue complaint, resign, confide, be still—
Know that Omniscience doth thy sufferings see
The Lord of Hosts will ever present be,
And Jacob's God is a sure refuge near,
To calm thy mind, and quiet every fear.

A PARAPHRASE

ON THE FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-THIRD PSALM.

LET Gratitude her tribute bring
The great Jehovah's power to sing,
On tuneful instruments to raise
Melodious strains of love and praise;
Oh! may the minstrel strike his lyre,
And touch its strings with holy fire,
To bending age and vigorous youth
Proclaim our God! a God of truth!

That the whole earth his power displays,

His mercy shines in all his ways,

The glittering orbs that grace the night,

The twilight gloom, and morn's soft light,

The mid-day sun, and soothing shade,

The verdant hill, and sheltered glade,

With all that on this globe rejoice,

Were formed by his Almighty voice,

Who spake from his majestic throne,

Gave the command, and it was done,—

Whose hand controul'd the troubled deep,

And made it his direction keep,

Whose counsel is for ever sure

And shall with truth and time endure.

Filled with reflections such as these,
May we in scenes of tranquil ease,
While holy shepherds tune their reeds
With grateful strains on flowery meads,
With awe and reverence praises give
To him, who bade the landscape live,
To him, from whom all goodness flows,
Who every bounteous gift bestows.

A HYMN.

O LORD! with Pity look on me
And guide my wandering feet to thee,
Oh! give me grace, that I may still
Incline my heart to do thy will.

When I my Saviour's mercies see,
Oh! raise my soul through him to thee,
His precepts may I keep in view,
Mindful to learn and practice too.

May faith each warm affection raise,
From earth to heaven!—from prayer to praise!—
Fill me with truth, and peace, and love,
Sure foretaste of the joys above.

If thorns instead of flowers appear,
And sorrow's darts shall pierce me here,
Support me with thy cheering ray,
Let heavenly hope illume my way.

If thou beneficently give,
With gratitude may I receive;
Expand my heart to ope' the door,
And share my blessings with the poor.

May I life's goods with temperance use,
Nor what is freely given refuse,
With thanks enjoy what I possess,
And in the gift, the giver bless.

Should thy will bid me still remain
In this low state of fear and pain,
Oh! grant that I may ever be
Devoted, Lord, to serving thee.

Protect me with thy powerful arm,
Pour in my heart thy sovereign balm.
Let patience soothe each pang I feel,
And soften what it cannot heal.

Guide thou my weak and wandering mind,

When doubt distracts and errors blind;

To thy blest will be e'er subdued,

Each thought, each vain solicitude.

A MORNING HYMN.

GLORY to thee O God! whose power,
A guard thro' dreary night,
Hath saved me in the darksome hour,
And given the morning light.

Oh! with the sun's returning rays,
May grateful feelings rise;
Inspire my heart to sing thy praise
In early sacrifice.

As the bright beams of morn illume,
  And night gives place to day;
So may thy light dispel the gloom,
  And guide my erring way.

Blot my transgressions from thy book
  By Mercy's pitying hand;
On all my actions deign to look,
  My every thought command.

May time, improved, serenely glide,
  Devoted, Lord, to thee;
May holy angels here preside,
  And bring thy peace to me.

To every creature here below
  Thy bounteous love extend;
Thou, great Redeemer, still dost shew
  Thyself to all a friend.

Give me this day my daily bread,
  Thy grace, O Lord! bestow;
By thee the hungry soul is fed,
  From thee all blessings flow.

May I the course of Virtue run,
  Each former sin forgiven;
Henceforth thy will by me be done,
  As it is done in Heaven.

And when at last this house of clay
  Dissolved in dust shall lie,
Thy heavenly glories, Lord, display,—
  Thy present deity.

Unveil thy kingdom to my sight,
  The splendour of thy throne;
And may the realms of endless light
  For ever be mine own.

AN EVENING HYMN.

MY God, whose mercy thro' the day
  Hath been my firm support and guide,
Still thro' the night be thou my stay,
  O'er gloom and danger to preside.

Oh! with the peaceful evening scene,
  When each tempestuous thought is still,
While twilight sheds a gleam serene,
  Teach me thy all-directing will.

Emblem of death, is quiet sleep—
  If from it's power I should revive,
Do thou my active spirit keep,
  And bid me for thy glory live.

If thou decreest I ne'er shall wake,
  All earthly comforts I resign,
Trusting thou wilt, in pity, take
  My soul to mansions which are thine.

Oh! may thy great Redeeming Son
  Pardon for my offences bring,
Efface what I amiss have done,
  And shade me with his peaceful wing.

A HYMN.

THOU Great, Supreme, Almighty Friend,
In mercy now thy grace extend;
Teach a poor suppliant thy will,
Direct and guide the wanderer still.

When in a dubious path I tread,
With clouds and tempests overspread,
Do thou illume my dreary way,
And be thy firm support, my stay.

When pleasures would seduce the mind,
May mine with reason be combined;
May I select unfading joy,
Such as may ne'er my peace destroy.

In every doubtful, trying, hour,
My hope is, thy sustaining power;
Trusting that thou wilt still protect,
And with thy grace my soul direct.

RESIGNATION

IN SICKNESS.

GREAT God! to thee I humbly bow,
To thee I bend the suppliant knee;
Thy lenient hand full well I know
Has power to aid and comfort me.

Oh! with afflictions that descend,
Add resignation to thy will;
Give me to see thou art my friend,
And can'st appear to solace still.

Through nature's course thou hast decreed
  A renovation of the scene,
To storms that sunshine should succeed,
  And sorrow make the mind serene.

As sunshine after storm revives,
  And plants and herbs fresh fragrance gain;
So sickness, tranquil peace supplies,
  And virtue lights her torch from pain.

Oh! may its beams my path illume,
  My fears dispel, my sorrows cheer;
Let resignation to my doom,
  And humble hope support me here.

THOUGHTS

WHILST EXAMINING FLOWERS.

THE little blossom I dissect
Shews a Supreme, can all protect—
How fine the texture, tinged with gold,
How gently does the bud unfold;
The petals open by degrees,
Till all complete can bear the breeze;
How wonderful this tender care,
Which e'en the shrinking flower can spare.

Shall not the God who clothes the field
And will the ripened harvest yield—
Shall he who gives the flower to blow
With varied beauty's richest glow—
Shall he not still his power extend
And man—his favourite work—befriend?—
Yes, his supreme, supporting, love,
His goodness infinite will prove—
And those who on his care rely
Shall feel his present deity.
He knows their wants—he marks their tears—
Assists the weak—the drooping cheers—
And, as his all-sustaining power
Supports the vernal opening flower.

So, if we firmly trust his care
In humble hope, and fervent prayer,
Meek, and submissive to his will,
We then shall find him ready, still
To feel our wants—to grant his aid,
His cheering sun—his soothing shade.
The flower endures the beating rain,
And lifts it's languid head again;
Who that it's slender stem surveys
Would think it formed for stormy days—
Yet lo! a gentler air revives
That slender stem—again it lives.
So does weak man from keen distress
Revive once more to happiness.

Affliction purifies the mind,
Raises the soul, to heaven resigned,
Teaches how little life can give
Unless we in the future live.
  Nature's revolving changes shew
A power supreme o'er all below;
Bid us still wait the Almighty's aim,
Trust in his arm and bless his name—
From these we learn that sorrows here
Will fit us for a loftier sphere,
With brighter views our hopes they raise,
In humble confidence —and grateful praise.

WRITTEN IN AUTUMN

AFTER A DANGEROUS ILLNESS.

REVIVING from the bed of death,
To me how cheering nature's breath—
The opening dawn
And sunny lawn
With glittering dew-drops animate the scene;
The gurgling rill
And distant mill
Sooth and compose the soul serene.

To me how int'resting each day—

How do I watch the leafless spray;

Th' autumnal breeze,

Which strips the trees,

Seems to deprive me of consoling friends,

At ev'ry view

A last adieu

Steals from me as the leaf descends.

I feel an animating power,

Which aids me in each trying hour;

And now resigned,

With tranquil mind,

Trust in his powerful, all sustaining, hand;

New hopes appear,

No more I fear,

But yield my life to his command.

The genial influence of the spring,

Re-animated life may bring;

All nature's friend

Can yet attend,

And guide, if health should renovate, my frame;

His promise still

He will fulfil,

And be supreme o'er death the same.

He'll lead from trials here below,

And give the pure seraphic glow;

All doubts removed,

The friends we loved

Will then unite and heavenly praises sing—

In spirit free

We all shall see

Our bliss complete and chaunt th' Eternal King.

ON A FRIEND REMARKING

I CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGE HOPE.

YOU tell me Hope is my delight,
And constantly my guest;
That with her soft and cheering voice
She bids my troubles rest.

Some say Pandora's box contained
This treasure of the mind;
That when all evils took their flight,
This blessing was behind.

Such Hope as this can never soothe,

Or calm tempestuous care;

My Hope religion must inspire,

Her anchor I would wear.

REFLECTIONS

WHILE COPYING A MINIATURE OF

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

ILL-FATED Mary! could not aught avail,
No not thy speaking face,
Thy dignity and grace,
Thy pleading innocence, and artless tale;
Who that thy face has seen
Would wish to be a Queen,
Or with ambitious ardor would be fired;
Who that thy sighs have known,
And felt thy piercing moan,
Would with desire for beauty be inspired?

With such a soul-expressive face,
Could Mary virtue's power disgrace?
With such a dignity of form,
Could Mary yield to passion's storm?
Or could she, led by faction's power,
Give up the peaceful, tranquil hour?
Was she not calm, devout, serene,
E'en in confinement's dreary scene?
Did she not through her deep distress,
Dependance on her God express?
Could not such sorrow touch the heart,
Such grief no sympathy impart?
How could'st thou, envious, rash, Elizabeth,
Doom so much sweetness to a cruel death?

Oh! what disgrace to England's learned queen,
Was such a train of politics, so mean—
What, tho' the faction of the times might shew
Mary in an unfavourable view—
Tho' dark suspicion with her jaundiced eye
Saw Rizzio bleed,—revengeful Darnley die;
Yet while a plea of innocence remained,
While Mary might not with such crimes be stained;
Ah! surely mercy should have stretched her hand,
And soothed the sufferer in a stranger-land;
The relative need not have been severe,
But rather might have dropped the pitying tear.
Dark Jealousy! thou foe to human kind,
How could'st thou rankle in so great a mind,

So fatal fix thy deep envenom'd dart,

That reason's empire could not aid impart;

Check the warm feeling, and the generous glow,

Which from a virtuous heart should ever flow?

Sweet consanguinity, and friendly ties,

Are surely rent when lovely Mary dies!—

How could'st thou, envious, rash, Elizabeth,

Doom a near relative to such a death?

ORLANDO AND EMILY.

"TO whom belongs that Parsonage so neat,
"Where taste and elegance so justly meet;
"Where half the porch the rose and woodbine
hide?"
Enquired the wanderer of his friendly guide.

"Orlando and his Emily live here,
"See in the garden now they both appear,"—

In playful infancy they caught love's flame,
A pleasing feeling, yet without a name.
Advancing years fixed the impression true,
Ripening, yet shrinking from the public view;
The growing passion each succeeding year,
Became the source of many a doubt and fear;
Orlando loved, yet still his love concealed,
From her to whom he wished it most revealed—
His gentle Emily, so good and pure,
Could she the blasts of poverty endure,
Or could she hope a doting parent's voice
Would sanction or approve so mean a choice,
No—he would go—in honor, he would go,
Where she could ne'er his secret sufferings know.

But then he feared that some more happy
swain,
Might his beloved Emily obtain.—
Should he, depending on her partial love,
Solicit she would constant to him prove;
When absent think of him with tender care—
This thought dispels the sadness of despair,
He must—he will, to her his passion tell,
Hope kindly whispered, all may yet be well.

He watched her visit to her favourite bower,
This is the happy, the auspicious hour—
" My Emily, I go!—a last adieu!
" No more Orlando that dear face must view.

"Will you when gazing on the tranquil stream,
'Whose wave reflects fair Cynthia's silver beam—
"Will you when straying thro' our favorite grove,
"Some moments dedicate to me—to love?
"Will memory e'er recall the happy hours,
"When in the verdant fields we pluck'd sweet
flowers;
"The simple lily springing in the vale,
"Screened by the hawthorn from the boist'rous
gale?
"Ah! Emily—might this an emblem be,
"You the sweet flow'ret, I the sheltering tree—
"No, your Orlando must an exile pine,
"And his fond hope of happiness resign,

"For well I feel your tender, constant vow,
"Must be directed by a father's brow,
"And tho' it be unfriendly to my love,
"Dear Emily's obedience I approve—
"Resplendent virtue shines with brightest grace
"When filial duty beams in thy sweet face;
"And tho' refusal be a harsh decree,
"I still must love, and absent think of thee,
"Still on perfection must I fondly doat,
"As on the wandering stream of life I float,
"Thy image still shall o'er my life preside
"Thy virtue be my pattern and my guide."

Trembling to speak, yet anxious to restrain,
What first she wished to hide, and then explain;

Candor and tenderness her soul inspired,
While filial duty all her conduct fired—
" Why not our secret to my father name,
" If he approve not, yet he may not blame—
" And should his will be adverse—still my
youth,
" I will devote to you, to love, and truth—
" No other can to me pure joy impart,
" None else shall sway the empire of my
heart."—

Her father chance directed to the grove,
He caught the accents of their virtuous love,
" Noble Orlando!—duteous darling child"—
Spake the good parent, with an accent mild,

" Not only I consent, but must direct,

" That you Orlando will my girl protect—

" Of fortune's gifts I have an ample store,

" What can I then in reason wish for more?

" No sordid, avaricious schemes in view,

" Her happiness, the object I pursue—

" Your worth, Orlando, I esteem and love,

" And my dear Emily's first choice approve.

" The sacred duties bring delight and peace

" Approving conscience and domestic ease:

" To calm the troubled mind, it's woes assuage,

" Instruct the young, and prop declining age;

"Let these blest objects be your constant care,

"Whilst in such joys my Emily will share."

Thus the good venerable parent's voice,

Approved and blessed Orlando's happy choice.

ELEGIAC STANZAS.

BLEST be the renovating breeze of spring,
When health, and peace, and joy bedeck the year;
When every flower can richest beauties bring,
And vernal robes in gayest tints appear.

Beloved the rural seat and tranquil vale,
The crystal streamlet, and the fertile grove,
If friendship's voice inspires the passing gale,
And pure domestic scenes attune to love.

If on the wreath by fond affection twined,
A partial parent casts his beaming eyes.
Sweet is the pleasure to the filial mind,
And dear the joy the blissful hour supplies.

But saddened is each rill and every glade
When they revive the recollective tear,
When every bower presents a parent's shade,
Departed pleasures hovering o'er the bier.—

Then in remembrance we alone rejoice,
Recall the hours of innocence and youth;
Hear the mild accents of affection's voice,
Whose sage experience would reveal the truth.

Memory will still each former bliss retrace,
The hand which would our wayward path
controul,
Dwell on each look in the expressive face,
Which ever beamed to elevate my soul.

The selfish tear, and the regretive sigh,
Religion's confidence should e'er repress,
The God who governs can our bliss supply,
Can calm our sorrows, and each trouble bless.

So did the parent's well directed heart,
Imprint his precepts on my infant mind;
Oh! may his sainted spirit still impart,
The rule of duty, and a soul resigned.

ON A DEW-DROP.

THE glittering dew-drop suspends from the spray,
A diamond which nature supplies;
How beauteous it gleams in the sun's early ray,
But alas, before mid-day it dies!

The gem which with labor is dug from the mine,
And polished by taste and by art,
Is a treasure improved which can brilliantly shine,
And a durable lustre impart.

So wit, as the dew-drop, with radiance can cheer,
And dazzle by magical power,
But it's flash, with it's glitter, must soon disappear,
It is fleeting, and fades with the hour.

Like the diamond is wisdom by culture refined,
A solid most sparkling and bright;
And the gleam which reflects from the sensible mind,
Shines with steady and permanent light.

HAY-MAKING.

BEHOLD the cheerful village train,
  The blooming maid, and rustic youth,
And see the timid, doubtful swain,
  Plighting his vows of love and truth.

The mower whets his scythe and sings,
  Some rake in rows the fragrant grass,
The distant cart it's treasure brings,
  While fleeting moments gaily pass.

The aged sire, and infant boy,
  Each raise the russet heap of hay;
The feather'd songsters tune to joy,
  And labor loves the social day.

Shall not such scenes instruct the heart,
  Shew what simplicity can yield?—
How little grandeur can impart,
  Equal to this delightful field.

TO TRANQUILLITY.

COME tranquil Pleasure, here reside,
Be thou my mild directing guide,
To purity and peace;
Come with thy meek and placid air,
Bid restless grief, with anxious care,
And each disquiet cease.

Pale discontent, with rank'ling spleen,
Will oft obscure the brightest scene,
And happiness destroy ;
These wither all our greenest bays,
These can o'ercloud our smiling days,
And blight each promis'd joy.

But to the well-attemper'd mind,
Tranquillity is bliss refined ;
And tho' a humble store,
If bounteous heaven with this impart,
A grateful and a cheerful heart,
We need not wish for more.

EFFUSION.

WEARIED with the toils of life,
Envy, turbulence, and strife,
I, amidst the lonely shade
In the quiet rural glade,
Sought upon th' enamelled green,
If a cot could there be seen,
Where domestic bliss might fly,
From the glance of curious eye;

From detraction's baneful strain,

From the idle, and the vain.

By a gentle murmuring rill,

In a vale beneath a hill,

There I found a favourite scene,

Calm, salubrious, and serene;

There the reverend grandsire see,

With a boy, on either knee,

Simple, moral lessons gives,

And in them again he lives;

There the white-fleeced flocks appear,

With the tending shepherd near,

While his lute's inspiring sound,

Charms the quiet scene around,

There content and virtue dwell,

Friendship, too, delights to tell

Gay inspiring tales of youth,

Love and constancy and truth.

These are scenes that touch the heart,

And ecstatic joys impart,

This is pure domestic bliss—

Pomp can never equal this.

CLIFTON.

CLIFTON'S inspiring breezes wake my strain,
Hygeia's seat with pleasure in her train:
Here lofty crags in awful grandeur rise,
Where the rich ochre with the diamond vies;
The sparkling stratum, deep inlaid with ore,
Here leads enquiring minds these rocks t' explore
While thickest woods, supplying calm retreat,
Invite the wanderer, sheltered from the heat,

In peaceful silence nature here to scan,
And bless that God who formed great nature's
plan.
Here simple flowers, in rich profusion spread,
Spring with their beauties from the airy tread—
See *Arabis* disclose her blossom here,
With simple *Cistus* and *Euphorbia* near;
Erica, *Tormentilla*, *Wild Thyme* green,
And blooming *Ophrys*, animate the scene—
Here the sweet *Violet* perfumes the air,
And *Digitalis* thrives, with virtues rare;
The scarlet *Pimpinella* peeps beside,
With rich *Hypericums* in golden pride;

The pencil'd *Eyebright*, and the *Scabious* gay,
With sweet *Geraniums* * gladden all the way;
The scarce *Sanquineum* of glowing hue
Springs near *Veronica* of lively blue;
These with the *Service* waving in the wind,
It's silver leaves the botanist may find,
May varied beauties elegantly class,
And innocently here his hours may pass.

To yonder wood a summer party throng,
To them the true delights of life belong.

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* Geraniums are not generally to be found flourishing without cultivation, but at Clifton, and on St. Vincent's Rocks several species of them are to be met with.

E'en John and Susan hail the happy day,
And with the well stored basket speed their way:
Delightful day of innocence and ease,
Where rural joys and sports combine to please:
Behind the tufted oak the children hide,
Impatient peep, half wishing to be spied;
The young brunette, a gypsey, now appears,
And tells the fortunes of their future years;
Gravely the little ones their palms display,
To know who best to-morrow's task will say;
When the next present from mamma be shared,
And which will be papa's best boy declared—
The elder youth, in hermit's habit clad,
No longer will appear like giddy lad;

But dignified, impressive, learned, sage,
He speaks with all the gravity of age—
A cave the rock affords to suit his plan,
Such as might please a meditative man;
An oaken stick procured, and reverend beard,
And now a grave, and solemn voice is heard.

"My children," says the hermit, "learn
of me,
"Life in its proper colours now to see—
"A vale of misery, a sea of tears,
"Made up of toil and trouble, doubts and fears,
"Temptations, trials, disappointments, woes,
These are the constant ills that manhood knows."

"Oh! no" the little Emma quickly cries,
"Life is all pleasure, and too soon it flies.
"I don't believe a word of all you say"—
And off the pretty trifler runs away.

The kettle sings upon the blazing fire,
The tea-things placed to all their hearts desire,
A stump of oak the rustic table makes,
The cream is ready, and the buttered cakes;
Elated Emma has her chosen seat
Upon the grass, just at her father's feet,
Yet not forgetful of the dismal tale
Her hermit-brother told her in the vale,

She with a lovely, mild, and touching grace,
Raised her sweet eyes to his expressive face.

"Papa—I'm happy now, but Henry says
"We can't in life have many happy days,
"Prayspeak papa—I'm sure you think him wrong,
"Does there not yet to us much joy belong?"

The tender father pressed her to his heart
With all the warmth affection could impart—
"Yes"—he replied with fondness, pleased to find
In this his darling an enquiring mind—
"With you, with all my children, I expect
"Virtue pursued, will with her aid protect.

"This the best hope, with her your constant
guide,
"Peace in your heart, and pleasure will reside—
"Henry is right that trials intervene,
"And sorrow oft must cloud the happiest scene;
"But does not sunshine after storms appear,
"Chase the dark cloud, and gild the prospect
drear?
"So will bright hope relieve the troubled breast,
"And resignation calm the soul to rest;
"Moderate wishes, simple, free from pride,
"With temper meek, are easily supplied,
"Be it your aim, dear girl, these to possess
"You thus ensure a certain happiness;

"The great Creator's all-directing will
"Has in his mercy mixed our good with ill;
"Not that this life should be a scene of woe,
"But that thro' suffering we our bliss should know;
"He can appear to soothe th' afflicted mind,
"And those who trust in him shall comfort find."

Soon with their parent's voice all doubts subside;
To learn of him their pleasure and their pride.

If bright enchantment ever lends her aid,
It must be here in this sequestered shade.
Aerial beings—fairy, sylph, and sprite,
Might gambol here by Cynthia's softened light;

Here may the dancing hours fresh chaplets weave,
Which simple flow'rets tastefully relieve;
Young sportive Cupid tips his golden dart,
In fragrant dews to heal the wounded heart.
Yet not to joy alone these scenes belong,
The voice of mourning oft intrudes her song.

What saddened pictures here of life we trace,
What dire presages speak in many a face;
Lo! that pale maid, the image of decay,
Winds to the spring her slow and lingering
way;
Consumption preys upon her tender frame,
Yet to resign and bear are all her aim.

"That Power," she says, "by whose supreme decree,
"Our joys are blighted, still can look on me;
"Can still, in mercy, give a soul resigned,
"The Christian's faith to animate my mind;
"Religion's hope can cheerfulness impart,
"And bring tranquillity to soothe the heart;
"Memory, with happy retrospective power,
"Can still revive the pleasurable hour;
"And revelation, with unerring light,
"Assures me those who part will re-unite."

Here richest beauties at each turn arise,
At every view they charm the gazer's eyes:

The lofty pile* uprising from the wood,
And verdant lawn which overhangs the flood;
Conspicuous Dundry too is always near,
It's rising towers can every prospect cheer.

A Roman relic on the down we find,
A work which haughty despots left behind;
The ruined boundary falling to decay
Shews how time sweeps the proudest schemes away:
Here may ambitious minds awhile reflect,
Review delusive plans, the heart detect,
See nature spreading wide an ample vale
Whose choicest bounties can each sense regale,

---

* Cook's Folly.

Whose varying scene luxuriantly appears,
And still with closer ties our land endears;
While spreading sails upon the ocean glide,
We boast the freedom, now a Briton's pride;
We mark th' invader's trench deep in the ground,
And own the blessings which with us abound;
To luxury which sunk their haughty race,
Their loss of honour and of wealth we trace.
May we with elevated views imprest,
Feel that the virtuous only are the blest,
That well-planned government can now bestow,
Defence to guard from the invading foe.
The patriot's zeal with independence crowned
Nobly secures the comforts he has found.

May every elegance that taste imparts
With useful science, and improving arts,
Each liberal polish culture can obtain,
Still smile beneath our sovereign's splendid reign.

Lo! at a distance rising to the sight,
A gothic castle * gives a new delight,
Where art concealed, arrayed as nature's friend,
And simple elegance their beauties blend.
The waving wood appears in stately show,
And verdant hills above, and vales below,
The winding riv'let, and the flowery mead,
Which to the rushing Severn gently lead.

---

* Blaize Castle.

Behind the jetting rock the sun descends,
A glowing radiance o'er the wood extends,
Mountains of vapour the horizon break,
And purple tints and blue, with golden streak.
The crescent moon upon the valley gleams,
And playful o'er the dimpling river beams;
The little boat glides on the curling wave,
While splashing oars the rippling waters lave;
These to the eye present a pleasing sight,
Whilst undulating sounds the ear delight;
Which past, a pensive stillness soothes the mind,
A soft sensation grateful and refined.

When we reflect, the sun from us departs
To cheer another clime, and other hearts,
To-morrow will it's daily course extend,
And rise on us, the animating friend;
Then while we all creation's works explore,
We must with reverence nature's God adore.

Here purest principles by practice shine—
Here is the parish priest, a true divine,
In every grief he takes an active part;
"Be still"—he says, to the desponding heart,
To sinners shews religion pure and bright,
And gives repentance mercy's lambent light.

His loved Eliza, with a tender care,
In all his duties takes a ready share,
Soothes and supports—instructs in virtue's way,
And bids the child's unpracticed tongue to pray.

Soft gentle zephyrs brace the languid frame,
Here grateful hearts feel pure devotion's flame;
Reviving health, with hope the future cheers,
Fresh spring of pleasure with new strength appears:
Like as the rising morn bright Sol displays,
When o'er the eastern vale he shoots his rays,
And smiling beauty o'er the landscape throws,
The brightened scene in softened lustre glows.

And as the drooping plant, for want of care,
Sickens and fades in northern blighting air,
But moved and cultured by judicious hands,
In aspect mild, it blooms and soon expands:
So may the weak in Clifton's chearing scene,
Gain renovated health and mind serene.

Beneath the rock, the gentle Avon glides,
Where commerce spreads her sails o'er swelling
tides,
The freighted vessel proudly brings its store
From distant climes to Bristol's liberal shore:
See on it's deck the master's happy face,
Rejoicing to behold his native place,

Points at each favourite spot, to memory dear,
And springs with pleasure to his friend so near.
His tender wife in anxious haste to meet
Him she most loves, and his return to greet,
Is on the bank, with lovely girl and boy,
Their father welcoming with boisterous joy;
And as they watch the busy sailor hail
This happy hour, and loose the whitened sail,
Impatiently they view the flowing tide
Which slowly ushers in a nation's pride.

On Avon's flowing banks, the rocks have power
To soothe the languid sufferer's painful hour:

Secluded there from blighting boisterous wind,
A sweet tranquillity steals o'er the mind;
The Hotwell Spring with pure salubrious air,
A calm inspires that banishes despair.

Here practising with skill the healing art,
The lenient friend can smiling health impart:
With sympathy he cheers the couch of grief,
And with a soothing hand supplies relief;
Attentive, listens to the piteous tale,
And, clothed in kindness, bids his art prevail.
This humble tribute from my pen is due,
May health restored my gratitude renew.

The neat white cottage just beneath the hill,
The foaming current from the neighbouring
mill,
The rustic girl, with pitcher by her side,
Hastens to have the evening meal supplied ;
The lowing herd, slow moving to the stall,
Leaving their pasture at the well-known call,
Their grateful bev'rage readily they yield,
And quietly return to browse the field :
These chearing objects animate the scene,
And rural sounds delight the mind serene.

Yet tho' retired, not insulated here,
While the commercial city rises near

Where hospitality her arms extends,

And where we find the ever-active friends;

Where meek-eyed charity, her Colston crowned,

And gave him, to dispense her gifts around.

Where opulence expands the generous heart,

And gives the feelings, with the power t' impart.

Poetic minds rejoice that there is found

The light of genius on Parnassian ground;

Where Redcliff's venerable towers appear,

We drop o'er Chatterton the pitying tear;

From this ill-fated, too aspiring youth,

We seek the muse uniting fire with truth,

Such as o'er Southey's pure harmonious strains

With native energy sublimely reigns,

Or such as his who Cambria's fall has sung,
And has his Lhyrarch's harp so sweetly strung.

As the lone traveller hails the chearing light
Which guides his footsteps through the dreary
night,
So when towards Barley Wood I turn my eye,
Solaced, I feel my monitress is nigh,
Whose dramas, sacred and poetic truth,
Inspired the ardour of my early youth;
Whose bright example, and whose moral page,
Have been the guides of my advancing age.
Oh! could my humble muse new effort bring,
Could I obtain one feather from her wing,

With grateful care the flattering gift I'd prize,
And on that pinion might aspire to rise;
But as the infant dazzled by the rays
Which yet attract it's ever ardent gaze,
So I, her genius distantly admire,
But dare not hope her plume my song will fire;
I simply aim, as nature is surveyed
In the pure stream, or ever soothing shade,
To calm my mind in this Elysian seat,
Where peace and science most sublimely meet;
While the huge rock, and distant Cambrian coast
Raise fleeting images which melt like frost.

I, who so lately sunk in pain and grief,
Have found in Clifton solace and relief,
Thus but attempt in tributary praise,
To prove a grateful heart, tho' feeble are my
lays.

TO MY NEPHEW JOSEPH,

ON HIS BIRTH-DAY,

AUGUST 11th, 1811.

THE eleventh of August do you say,
This then is Joseph's natal day;
And, as the boy delights in rhyme,
I must devote a little time
In this his favourite way to prove
How much he shares my anxious love.

My warmest wishes understood
Are summed in this-- be wise and good,
Wisdom and virtue will ensure
A mind serene, a conscience pure,
Such as thro' stormy life will guide,
With sure, and solid bliss allied.
Your parents' kind and tender care,
Preserves you now from every snare,
And will direct advancing youth
By precepts fraught with moral truth.
Religion in your well-formed mind
Will happily its entrance find,
By their example early taught,
You will be every thing you ought.

I think I hear you archly say
" Give something lively aunt, by way
" Of bright'ning this didactic lay.
" Do you not think, aunt Anne, you're able
" To write us something like a fable—
" A horse, perhaps, and little ant,
" Will they not furnish what we want?"

" Yes my dear boy, I like the thought,
" By instinct, reason may be taught."—

A noble horse, when horses could
Speak so as to be understood,
Addressed a little simple ant
With much disdain and snorting rant—

"You servile insect, look on me,
"My beauty, strength,—look up and see—
"I bound through forests—scour the plain—
"Leap the high fence—the race obtain—
"While you, content, drudge every day,
"Plodding the same dull, stupid way."

The ant replied, in humble mood,
"My days are spent in hoarding food,
"Such as may winter's wants supply,
"Without this care my young would die.
"Nor idly dull my mental powers—
"The garden gives reflective hours,
"We may instruction draw from flowers.

"These lessons which I daily scan
"Are not for me alone, but man—
"Herbs, vegetables—choicest fruit,
"Such as the varying taste may suit—
"These all my grateful feelings raise,
"I know their use,—the Giver praise,
"On Him for every good depend,
"The One great universal Friend—
"If we from innocence ne'er stray,
"But keep his precepts every day,
"He will our humble wants provide,
"Direct our path—our guard, and guide."

The horse looked down with haughty scoff,
Tossed his proud mane, and galloped off.

I grieve to tell his future fate—
The obstinate and proud ingrate
With all his beauty, strength, and grace,
Sprung to the course—but lost the race—
His spirit broke—for work not able,
Dismissed from comfortable stable,
Sold to a master like a Turk,
Who beat him tho' he could not work,
He, with a groan, and tearful eye,
Thought of the ant, and heaved a sigh!—
Owned, industry, secure from strife,
The surest means to solace life.

This fable, Joseph, you'll observe
Wia ll teach lesson, all may serve;

Yes, a clear mind, with humble fare,

Is the best lot that man can share—

These tranquil joys dear Joe pursue,

And happiness will dwell with you.

TO MY SISTER,

ON HER BIRTH-DAY,

MARCH 10th, 1812.

NOW Anna's voice a grateful theme would sing,
And warm affection touch a powerful string—
Now shall the lyre attune a feeble lay,
While truth and friendship animate the day.

What tho' she boasts not the poetic fire
That erst the sacred bards did oft inspire,
Yet the fond wishes of a sister's heart
Some sympathetic pleasure may impart.

Could fancy now her fairy visions build,
And fix the fabric, joy can richly gild,
Sarah, by bliss encircled should appear,
And crowned with pleasures each revolving year.

But these illusive shades pass quickly by,
And sad realities their place supply;
Let me then rather hope a strengthened mind
Will bring content, to every ill resigned.

For pleasures in this fleeting life are few,
Save what the heavenly mind can oft renew;
Such transports as from virtuous feelings rise,
The first, best, joy of holy sympathies.

Still may her hours in gentle current glide,
Still o'er her life may Virtue's self preside,
Banish her troubles, gladden every day,
And strew with sweet, unfading flowers her way.

Her kind attentions sooth each gloomy scene,
And e'en thro' sickness make my hours serene;
Her playful humour and her lively sense,
Each passing day some new delights dispense.

May she be certain that a sister's breast,
Deeply by all her Sarah's love imprest,
Will each event with sympathy attend,
And prove in every care a constant friend.

And when the tempests of this life shall cease,
May heavenly hope give confidence and peace;
When earth recedes, and its bright visions close,
Then may she in a Christian's faith repose.

TO EMMA,

ON HER REQUESTING MY OPINION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A BEAUTIFUL FACE.

MY dear little Emma requests I'll declare
What is meant by a beautiful face—
If black eyes, or blue, or a skin brown or fair,
Give the pleasing peculiar grace.

'Tis not, my dear girl, in complexion, but mind,
Where enliv'ning expression appears,
'Tis the blush on the cheek with pure feeling combined—
The eye glist'ning with sympathy's tears.

'Tis the smile of complacence that o'er the mouth
plays,
And sweet candour adorning the brow,
Good humour, the sun, with bright, soul-piercing
rays—
These alone can true beauty bestow.

TO MY NEPHEW FRANCIS,

ON HIS ENTERING ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL,

Where his lamented father was educated, who died 1801, leaving this infant son.

AS you dear Frank are ent'ring a new school,
I wish to give you some kind friendly rule
To guide your conduct, animate your hope,
Improve your virtues, and give talents scope;
All I can say affection will indite,
The heart must dictate ere the pen can write.

With tenderest care I've watched your infant
years,
With joy rewarded, and reproved with tears;
Pleased with your opening genius, proud to see
My darling boy, all I would have him be.
Still fondly anxious, I in fancy trace
Ingenuous youth improved by manly grace,
In you my happiest feelings all revive,
In you, again I see my brother live;
On the same bench he sat, I see you look
With earnest eye on the same classic book,
Anxious to learn the task he learned before,
And like him take delight in learning's store—
I see you pause, and mentally exclaim,
" Yes, I will venerate my father's name,

"Will emulate his philosophic mind,
"And be like him learn'd, virtuous, and refined;
"With ardent hope I'll every day aspire
"To catch the sparks he caught from attic fire:
"On this same ground his youthful feet have stood,
"I'll follow him in all that's wise and good."
Such thoughts as these will energy impart,
And give new vigour to your feeling heart,
Genius will lighten learning's weighty load,
The hill of science be a chearful road,
Pellucid streams of pleasure glide serene,
And a reviving sunshine gild the scene;
Approving conscience every day attends
The master's favour and the smile of friends.

Such I anticipate will be your joys,

While you're beloved by all your playmate boys;

Yet in the choice of these be very nice,

Associate only with those free from vice;

Let all your qualities be well combined,

For "as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined"—

Fix deep it's root in virtue's solid ground,

That clustering fruits of goodness may abound—

In all your actions ever keep in view

"To others do as they should do to you."

Think tho' your deeds escape all mortal eye,

There is a God can every thought descry;

Who looks severely on each bad intent,

Tho' he with mercy views the penitent.

The world's a stage whose fascinating glare
The youthful mind may easily ensnare,
Delusive follies, touched by magic wand,
In fairy forms present a flattering band;
I hope dear Frank you'll soon detect the cheat,
And early shun, vice, folly, and deceit.

TO

MY SISTER MARY.

DEAR Mary when some Roman dames,
In costly robes and gems attired,
With all that haughty splendour claims,
Sought fair Cornelia, tho' retired.

Alive to pure domestic joys,
Not dazzled by the brilliant glare,
She but produced her darling boys,
Her "dearest pearls"—her fondest care.

And shall we Mary e'er believe
  The Roman youths could your's excel?
Did they more ardently receive
  The simple rules for acting well?

Ah no, my sister!—your sweet eight
  With yielding tempers soft and bland,
Well trained, may be of greater weight,
  When cultured in a Christian land.

The gentle girls, and noble boys,
  In virtue nurtured every day,
Will prove your source of future joys,
  And all a mother's cares repay.

TO

MY NEPHEWS AND NIECES.

TO the dear children near my heart,
My warmest wishes I impart.
Two years of sickness, pain, and grief,
Without your smiles to give relief,
Have not estranged you from my mind—
My pleasures are with yours entwined.
Free are our thoughts, mine fly to you,
Affection's lay is now your due:

Didactic themes I might suppress
If I could feel I loved you less—
For you my fervent prayers ascend
That God may ever be your friend;
Still o'er your changing scene preside,
Your leading star, your constant guide.

Let folly fear the serious rule,
Such as she says is learned at school;
I'll hope my pupils will attend,
And take true wisdom as their friend.

Life is a sea where waves must rise,
And tempests veil the brightest skies;

Yet if we feel there is a Power
Which guards us thro' each trying hour;
Can still the little bark direct,
And with a gracious hand protect;
We shall not fear tho' tempests lower,
We yet may safely reach the shore.

You are embarked upon a stream,
Where oft delusive phantoms gleam;
May prudence o'er your sails preside,
And waft you on a peaceful tide;
Teach you to seek from older friends
The wisdom which on age attends;
And to admire the sainted worth
We loved and reverenced when on earth.

Let memory picture to your mind
Your grandsire, ever good and kind;
May his example be your guide,
His virtues o'er your lives preside;
To purest joys direct your youth,
And point to happiness and truth;
Shew you religion must inspire,
Your early hope, your first desire;
Must all your wisest hours engage,
And be your best support in age.
His precepts ever bear in mind,
" Be to all human beings kind—
" Let no mean feelings intervene,
" No selfish views, no envious spleen—

"Detraction, vanity, and pride,

"Can ne'er in generous hearts reside."

Thus to instruct he ever sought—

May we imbibe what he has taught.

Let us preserve his image dear,

His practice love, his life revere—

Oh! may his precepts rule each heart,

And may their influence ne'er depart;

But all our actions still controul,

And be impressed on every soul.

FINIS.

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